

## The Times

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WASHINGTON, SATURDAY, MARCH 27.

The Innocence of John Bull.

Some of our esteemed contemporaries are

disposed to laugh at a presumed ignorance

displayed by the British press in finding

fault with the Senate of the United States

for desiring to protect its prerogative of

initiation in treaty matters. They are at

pains to state to newspapers on the other

side that constitutional conditions differ

in the two countries. They explain with

patent care that, whereas a British minis-

try has the absolute power to dictate

and direct a foreign policy, and to make

treaties without recourse to Parliament,

in this country the Senate is the sole

treaty-making power. So that, to make

matters even, if the British prime minister

of the day can say what subjects his

government wants or does not want to

be submitted for arbitration, under a gen-

eral treaty covering that sort of thing,

the corresponding American power, which

is the Senate, ought to have the like privi-

lege.

Our contemporaries are merely wasting

time and type in offering these gratuitous

pieces of information. Our British cousins

know all about the facts long ago. If it

had not been considered convenient and

desirable to take the treaty-making and

declaring powers out of the hands of the

Senate, as to all questions likely to

arise between the United States and Eng-

land, we should have heard nothing of this

Quies-Pompeii project.

It is not difficult to see, on the other

hand, that a general treaty which would

deprive the Senate of those powers, might

become a most useful instrument to Great

Britain if the American end of it could be

played by such an Executive as Cleveland

and such a Secretary of State as Olney.

Journals in this country which hold out

the idea that the arbitration treaty is an

excellent thing and that Lord Salisbury

and his countrymen are ignorant, or un-

appreciative of our constitutional arrange-

ments of protection, manifestly need a

little primary education.

The Lion and the Bear.

The lack of polarity between the ideas

and motives of England and Russia, in

connection with the Cretan and Grecian

questions, was illustrated in the foreign

dispatches of yesterday afternoon. From

them it appeared that Great Britain was

willing to consent to the blockade of

Greece, in the event that King George

should refuse to accede to the proposition

for a neutral zone to be established

between the Greek and Turkish forces

on the frontier. It also was stated that

Russia opposed the formation of the

neutral zone, and insisted that the con-

cession of Greece should begin without fur-

ther delay.

If the calling out of the Sultan's last

available reserves and the feverish war

preparations in Greece mean anything,

there is not likely to be any neutral

zone; and if the friction between Great

Britain and Russia continues much longer

there will be nothing much better than

a hot of flame between them one of

these near days.

Queen Victoria to Visit Mr. Astor.

There is a superstition among the Eng-

lish persons that it is bad luck for the

queen to visit a subject. Some sort of

evil destiny will, it is said, overtake

the subject before very long. But Mr. Wil-

liam Waldorf Astor is not a subject of the

queen, therefore let us congratulate him.

Mr. Astor will receive in this visit a

distinction which has never been con-

ferred upon any of his countrymen. It

is probable that his magnificent collection

of books has something to do with this

graciousness on the part of her majesty,

as she is passionately fond of flowers,

and now and then does little unconven-

ient things, led on by this fondness,

that she would not otherwise consider.

But the greater reason is the interest which

Mr. Astor has shown in the famine-stricken

people of India, and in two or three other

charities in which the queen is interested.

His liberality is of that variety which we

are accustomed to call princely, but which,

in England, is beginning to be called

American. If he were an Englishman

his reward would probably be a title, but

as he is not one, and has shown no de-

sire to take out naturalization papers,

that mark of approval is impossible. So

she will make him a personal visit.

Cleveland, on the Thames, is one of the

most beautiful country seats in England.

Her majesty will drive there in her car-

riage, and on alighting will be received

by Mr. Astor and his daughter, who has

not yet been presented at court, and will

thus have the unique experience of meet-

ing the queen informally nearly a year

before she becomes a debutante. Mr.

Astor will then offer his arm to the queen

and lead her to the drawing-room, which

is on the ground floor, so that no stairs

need be climbed. There afternoon tea

will be served, no one but the queen par-

taking of the meal unless specially in-

vited by her. If there are children in

the family she always desires to see them.

She will also request the names of any

visitors who may be staying in the house;

and if she desires, they may be intro-

duced. That is the etiquette of the whole

matter.

Mr. Astor receives an honor in this

visit which, except in the case of Baron

Ferdinand Rothschild, has been restricted

to the highest nobles of the realm. Pos-

sibly he will consider it the greatest

triumph of his life, very possibly not.

But it is an honor which, in the eyes of

his English friends and neighbors, should

doubtless cause him to be almost overcome

with pride and happiness.

The Railroads and the Law.

Ex-Senator Edmunds, who, as chairman

of the Senate Judiciary Committee, drew

the anti-trust law, is quoted as declar-

ing that the measure unquestionably con-

templated railways as well as other cor-por-

ations or combinations that might enter into

conspiracies in restraint of trade. This

will not be agreeable news to the railway

interest, which, indeed, seems to be rather

paralyzed in consequence of the recent Su-

preme Court decision.

One of our New York contemporaries

declares that if railway managers and other

responsible officials could be depended

upon to keep engagements entered into be-

tween independent lines and systems, the

professional situation would not be as

gloomy as it is. It is asserted that they

cannot be trusted to keep faith with one

another, except under such fines and pen-

alties as the pooling system made possible,

and which cannot be inflicted in the ab-

sence of the same.

As The Times has suggested they would,

it now appears that the railways are prepar-

ing for a vigorous legislative movement

in the Congress for relief. It is quite

natural that they should wish to have an

exception made in their favor. They do

not represent the absolute power over de-

liberative bodies that once they enjoyed;

but still their influence is respectable, be-

cause it represents the dominating nation-

owning power of their proprietary, which,

as everybody knows, is composed of the

foreign bond syndicate, a few millionaires

and a number of Eastern banking cliques.

They will, therefore, be kindly received in

the House, and perhaps get the privilege

of the floor in the Senate, while the ec-cen-

trical and whimsical facilities of Chamberlain's

and the Arlington will be taxed for a while

to supply force to argument. In the end

they will secure what they require, beyond

much doubt.

We suggest to all the parties affected

by the decision that they take up this

view of the situation jointly. A combined

attack on the Congress might be just as

cheap and more effective than segregated

effort. And, besides all that, Senators

and Members, as well as the highest

judicial officers, all feel the force of that

earlier decision; older than the Black-

stone formation in the geology of juris-

prudence. "What is sauce for the goose

seeth for the gander."

More Trouble in South Africa.

Readers of this journal will have noticed

the apparent retirement of the German

government from active participation in

the Graeco-Cretan movements during the

past two weeks. When, about that long

ago, the Kaiser was reported to say that

the matter was not of immediate im-

portance enough to engage the services of

his military or naval arms, The Times

suggested that he might be waiting for the

entanglements of Great Britain to become

serious enough to justify him in a little

political excursion into South Africa on

his own account.

The complications referred to now ap-

pear to have grown sufficient in force to

make him feel like doing something, and

a Berlin dispatch asserts that prepara-

tions are being made to send three thou-

sand troops to Southwest Africa in April.

That would be a small force, indeed, but

at the last moment it might be discovered

that it was in reality much larger, and

in fact large enough to renege the

Boers adequately to meet the twenty-five

thousand British soldiers that Lord Wol-

seley considers sufficient for a walk-over in

the Transvaal.

While these things are developing in

Europe matters in the African Dutch re-

public are not as smooth as might be

wished. President Kruger, having won

a free hand by the suppression of his rup-

ture court, has taken further steps in the

direction of a personal dictatorship. He

has exterminated the Johannesburg

papers published in the interests of the

"outlanders," and now there is not a

venue of public opinion in the country that

can be used to protest against or in any

way embarrass his policy or actions.

In consequence of these manifestations

it is said that the British colonial secretary,

the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, has ad-

dressed the strongest kind of a note to

President Kruger, reminding him of treaty

violations, and demanding immediate mea-

sures of reform.

British impatience to secure a prompt

answer to that note will no doubt be

emphasized by the report of the intended

German expedition, and we are not

familiar with British methods if the red

coats do not manage to reach the Trans-

vaal frontier before the boys in blue

who wear the attractive cockade of the

Federation.

Mr. Gladstone on a Wheel.

In the midst of all the trouble about

Crete and other countries in which Eng-

land is more or less interested, it is a

pleasure to learn that the Rt. Hon. Wil-

liam E. Gladstone has found time to learn

to ride the bicycle. This new departure

is characteristic of Mr. Gladstone. He

never did allow himself to be flustered

and worried by state affairs, and always

had time to go out and chop down a tree,

or engage in a Homeric controversy, or in

a playful war of words with a Catholic

archbishop on theological subjects. This,

doubtless, is one reason why, at his great

age, he is so wonderfully active and well

preserved. He has driven his work, in-

stead of letting his work drive him.

He now says that he has mastered the

bicycle. He writes this news to a friend,

in the full flush of victory; and if there

is any flash of victory more satisfying

than that which glows on the cheek of the

new-made bicyclist, we should like to

know what it is. Mr. Gladstone doubtless

feels now as if he could do anything; just

anything, no matter what it is. He would

ride on his bicycle, with his ax, and

lead the English troops to victory himself,

if there were any need of doing it. The

bicycle knows no age, no sex, no distinc-

tions of race or of rank. Its votaries are

all on a sort of Democratic level. In a city

like Washington, where the wheelmen are

so very large a proportion of the population,

## CAPITOL NEWS AND GOSSIP.

Senator Mason of Illinois was formerly

a resident of Iowa. During his daily visit

to the White House he happened to meet a

number of old Iowa friends in the Presi-

dent's ante-room. Considerable good-

natured chaffing followed. The Iowa men

insisted that Mason was the third Senator

from Iowa. One of them said: "You're a

great deal bigger man in every way, Billy,

than you used to be when you lived out

among us."

"Do you mean in girth?" inquired the

Senator.

"Yes, girth and other things."

"Why, didn't you know that I was

falling off in size?"

"Are you? How do you do it?"

"The wheel."

"But you don't ride do you, Senator?"

"Ride? Certainly not, I dodge. And